

Express Mail Certificate: EL 979045005 US
Date Mailed: October 30, 2003

**UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION
FOR GRANT OF LETTERS PATENT**

**CHRIS EATON
MATT MURRAY
INVENTORS**

**A MOBILE DEVICE WITH
A COMBINATION ATTACHMENT
AND ACOUSTIC PORT**

**COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.
P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 854-1844**

**A MOBILE DEVICE WITH A
COMBINATION ATTACHMENT AND ACOUSTIC PORT**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to mobile devices and more particularly to mobile devices that combine external features to reduce mobile device size.

The increasing popularity of mobile devices, such as cellular telephones, Portable Digital Assistants (PDA), MP3 players, etc., is due in part to their small size and portability. Despite the significant reductions in mobile device size over the past 10 decade, consumers still demand increasingly smaller mobile devices. To address this demand, manufacturers spend considerable resources each year exploring new ways to reduce the size of their mobile devices.

One solution includes reducing the number of external ports positioned on the 15 housing of a mobile device by combining the functionality of two or more ports into a single port. By eliminating one or more external ports, designers may be able to conserve space, and therefore, may be able to reduce the size of the mobile device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a method and apparatus for combining an 20 attachment and acoustic port on a housing of a mobile device. The mobile device includes a speaker disposed within the housing. A combined attachment and acoustic port disposed on the housing is configured to project audible sound from the speaker. Further, the combination attachment and acoustic port includes an attachment member for attaching an external member to the mobile device.

25 In one embodiment, the mobile device comprises a combination attachment and acoustic port formed at least partially in the housing. The combination attachment and acoustic port includes at least one attaching bar extending across

the port for connecting an external member. The attaching bar is spaced with respect to the port such that an open area is defined around the attaching bar that is of sufficient size to allow the external member to be attached around the attaching bar. The combination and acoustic port also projects sound from a speaker

5 positioned within the mobile device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of an exemplary mobile device according to the present invention.

10 Figure 2A illustrates various mobile communication devices according to the present invention.

Figure 2B illustrates various portable electronic devices according to the present invention.

Figure 3 illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary mobile device as seen

15 from the front.

Figure 4A illustrates a top view of an exemplary combination port according to the present invention.

Figure 4B illustrates a cross-sectional view of the combination port of Figure

20 4A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Mobile devices utilized with the present invention may comprise any known mobile communication device or portable electronic device. Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of an exemplary mobile communication device 100 according to the present invention. As used herein, the term "mobile communication device" may include cellular telephones 100a, satellite telephones, personal communication services (PCS) devices, personal data assistants (PDAs) 100b, palm-top computers,

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pgers, and the like, some of which are illustrated in Figure 2A. While the present invention is described in terms of a mobile communication device 100, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention is not limited to mobile communication devices 100. For example, the present invention may also be

5 embodied in other mobile devices, such as portable electronic devices 102, including portable radios, cassette players 102a, compact disc players and/or mini-disc player 102b, MP3 players, and the like (see Figure 2B). As such, those skilled in the art will understand that mobile devices, as described herein, include mobile communication devices 100 and portable electronic devices 102.

10 Mobile communication device 100 comprises an antenna 110 and a communication circuit 120. Antenna 110 transmits and receives radio signals according to any means known in the art. Communication circuit 120 comprises input/output circuit 134, transceiver 122, memory 124, microprocessor 132, audio processing circuit 136, and user interface 140. Input/output circuit 134 interfaces 15 microprocessor 132, transceiver 122, audio processing circuit 136, and user interface 140 according to any means known in the art. Audio processing circuit 136 provides basic analog output signals to speakers 148, 150 and accepts analog audio inputs from microphone 146. Transceiver 122, coupled to antenna 110, is a fully functional cellular radio transceiver, which may operate according to any known standard, 20 including the standards known generally as the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), TIA/EIA-136, cdmaOne, cdma2000, UMTS, and Wideband CDMA.

Microprocessor 132 controls the operation of mobile communication device 100 according to programs stored in memory 124. The control functions of 25 microprocessor 132 may be implemented in a single microprocessor or in multiple microprocessors. Suitable microprocessors may include, for example, both general purpose and special purpose microprocessors and digital signal processors.

Memory 124 represents the entire hierarchy of memory in a mobile communication device 100, and may include both random access memory (RAM) and read-only memory (ROM). Computer program instructions and data required for operation are stored in non-volatile memory, such as EPROM, EEPROM, and/or flash memory,

- 5 which may be implemented as discrete devices, stacked devices, or integrated with microprocessor 132. As shown in Figure 1, microprocessor 132, input/output circuit 134, and/or audio processing circuit 136 may be incorporated into a specially designed application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) 130. While not shown, ASIC 130 may also include memory 124

- 10 User interface 140 includes keypad 142, display 144, microphone 146, primary speaker 148, secondary speaker 150, a combination attachment and acoustic port, herein referred to as combination port 152, and an acoustic channel 154. Keypad 142 enables the user to dial numbers, enter commands, and select options via an alphanumeric keypad and, optionally, a navigation control, such as a
- 15 joystick control, as is known in the art. Display 144 allows the user to see dialed digits, images, called status, menu options, and other service information.

Microphone 146 converts the user's speech into electrical audio signals.

- Primary speaker 148 converts electrical audio signals, such as speech signals from a far-end user, into audible signals that can be heard by the user. Secondary speaker
- 20 150 converts electrical audio signals, such as high-level voice audio, and/or notification signals, i.e., a ring or an alarm, to audible signals that are routed to the user via the acoustic channel 154 and combination port 152, as described further below. While Figure 1 illustrates primary speaker 148 and secondary speaker 150 as two separate speakers, those skilled in the art will understand that primary and
- 25 secondary speakers 148, 150 may be combined into a single speaker.

Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary mobile communication device 100 according to the present invention. Mobile communication device 100 includes a housing 160

having a front 162, a back (not shown), and an outer edge that connects front 162 to the back and includes top and bottom ends 164 and right and left sides 166. Further, mobile communication device 100 includes keypad 142, display 144, an input port for microphone 146, an output port for primary speaker 148, and a combination port 152.

5 Keypad 142, display 144, the output port for primary speaker 148, and the input port for microphone 146 are disposed on the front 162 of housing 160, and operate as described above.

Combination port 152 operates as an output port for secondary speaker 150, as described above, and may be disposed anywhere on housing 160. In preferred 10 embodiments, combination port 152 is at least partially formed on an outer edge of housing 160. As shown in Figure 3, an exemplary mobile communication device 100 may include a combination port 152 on a top end 164 of a mobile device.

Alternatively, as shown in Figure 2A, combination port 152 may be formed on a side 166 of a mobile device.

15 Figures 4A and 4B provide further details of an exemplary combination port 152 according to the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, combination port 152 comprises an opening or recess 156 formed in the housing 160. The opening typically includes one or more speaker holes 157 for projecting audible sound. Further, combination port 152 includes a support member 158. While Figure 20 4A illustrates a single rigid support member 158 positioned in combination port 152, those skilled in the art will appreciate that multiple rigid support members 158 may be positioned in combination port 152. Further, the present invention is not limited to the rigid support member 158 shown; other types of attachment members or attaching bars suitable for attaching external members may be included in combination port 25 152.

Figure 4B shows a cross-section of the combination port 152 of Figure 4A. Support member 158 is positioned within recess 156 such that the support member

158 spans recess 156 and is spaced from the edges 159 of recess 156. As shown in Figure 4B, the spacing between the edges 159 of recess 156 and support member 158 provides sufficient space for an end of an external member, such as a spring clip 172 on a lanyard 170, to extend around support member 158. While Figure 4B

5 illustrates a spring clip 172 secured around support member 158, those skilled in the art will recognize that support member 158 may be spaced from the edges 159 of the recess 156 to accommodate any known strap, clip, or the like. Further, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the support member 158 may be used to attach any known external member to the mobile device. Such external members may include

10 lanyards, straps, clips, key rings, handles, and the like.

Figure 4B also shows an acoustic channel 154 disposed between secondary speaker 150 and combination port 152. As discussed above, combination port 152 projects audible sound from secondary speaker 150. Further, acoustic channel 154 routes the audible sound projected by secondary speaker 150 to combination port 152. While not shown, acoustic channel 154 may include acoustic impedance matching elements to match the acoustic impedance of secondary speaker 150 to the acoustic impedance of the environment external to combination port 152.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention is not limited to the acoustic channel configurations shown in Figures 1 and 4B; any configuration known in the art may be utilized. For example, acoustic channel 154 may assume a conical shape to better project audible sounds from the speaker 150 to combination port 152. Further, as shown in Figure 1, the acoustic channel 154 may include one or more bends to better accommodate spacing requirements.

The present invention may, of course, be carried out in other ways than those specifically set forth herein without departing from essential characteristics of the invention. The present embodiments are to be considered in all respects as

illustrative and not restrictive, and all changes coming within the meaning and equivalency range of the appended claims are intended to be embraced therein.